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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,932	12/19/2001	Mitsuyuki Goto	217593US2	9890

22850 7590 02/28/2007  
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
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CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/28/2007	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 02/28/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/020,932

Applicant(s)

GOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Cuff

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cukor et al. in view of Hahn-Carlson and Kodosky et al.

Cukor et al. teaches a shipment system including processing of document images. Cukor et al. teaches generating image data of a document on which a condition of exporting or importing of goods is described (see for example column 5, lines 37-42) and storing the image data (see for example column 5, lines 42-47).

Cukor et al. further teaches storing document data described on said document (see for example column 6, lines 49-56).

Cukor et al. teaches a data output step for outputting the images and the document data (see for example column 9, lines 18-35).

Cukor teaches said image data generation step generating said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step (see for example column 10, lines 4-12). Examiner notes that the arrival of a shipment to the remote freight terminal represents a physical distribution step.

Cukor et al. does not teach a storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import wherein the data output corresponds to a range of output enabled data associated with the concerned party wherein said output step includes the steps of, based on said decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one of a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display progress of a procedure relating to transfer of said goods on said terminal of said concerned party.

Hahn-Carlson teaches a shipment transaction system that store information associated with shipment transactions. The system of Hahn-Carlson includes allowing access to the information by authorized users in order to reduce administrative costs (see for example column 4, lines 15-20). To achieve this the system of Hahn-Carlson includes an authorized user profile list which stores information associated with each of the authorized users (see for example column 7, lines 44-52). The system then compares elements of transaction information with the authorized user list to determine what transaction information a user is authorized to view (see for example column 11, lines 17-22). Examiner notes that this represents Applicant's range of output enabled data associated with the concerned party.

Hahn-Carlson further teaches data with respect to "Date of Last Activity", "Current Status", "Current Status Date", and "Pending Status." (see for example TABLE 2). Examiner notes that this data, as well as their display to the authorized user represents Applicant's "wherein said output step includes the steps of, based on said

Art Unit: 3627

decided range and said specified data relating to goods, obtaining image data of an associated one of a plurality of documents, and outputting said image data or said document data to a terminal of said concerned party to thereby display progress of a procedure relating to transfer of said goods on said terminal of said concerned party.”

Returning to Cukor et al. Examiner notes that Cukor teaches that it is common for shippers or consignees (concerned parties) to require that the shipping invoice be accompanied by copies of various documents, such as bill of lading, purchase order, or signed delivery receipt (see column 12, lines 25-29). To achieve this Cukor et al. downloads the images which are printed at the central station.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the central station of Cukor et al. to allow access to the information (including “Date of Last Activity”, “Current Status”, “Current Status Date”, and “Pending Status”) by authorized user as taught by Hahn-Carlson. Specifically, it would have been obvious to include in the central processing station of Cukor et al. an authorized user list, and to compare transaction information with authorized user list thus determining what transaction information a user is authorized to view prior to displaying the information as taught by Hahn-Carlson. Examiner notes that this modification would be particularly helpful in providing the accompanying documents with the shipping invoice of Cukor et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the references in order to reduce administrative costs.

Cukor et al. teaches procedures for execution of importing and exporting goods (see for example column 12, lines 25-50). Examiner notes that attaching a list of required documents with a shipping invoice represents a procedure for the execution of importing and exporting goods. However, Cukor et al. does not specifically teach storing as document data an execution date for the procedure.

Hahn-Carlson teaches identifying transaction procedures based on an effective date. In particular the effective date is store and associated with a transaction and payment process automatically begins on that date (execution of procedures associated with the date) (see for example column 13, lines 10-15) Hahn-Carlson teaches this expedites the payment process.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the system of Cukor et al. to include the storage of an effective date (execution date) as taught by Hahn-Carlson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the references in order to expedite the process of attaching the required documents.

In addition, Cukor teaches determining a type of generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converting said image data to said predetermined type and storing converted image data (see column 7, lines 39-54). Cukor shows a diagram illustrating a correspondence between the host computer (person who conducts the procedure) and received by the shipper or

Art Unit: 3627

consignees (person who receives said procedure). However, Cukor does not display this process diagram as part of the output.

Kodosky et al. teaches a graphical data flow program. Figure 3 teaches the building of a high-level block diagram as part of a display. High-level block diagrams are an easy way to explain a process to all those concerned. Kodosky et al. is just one of many references that could be used as creating high-level block diagrams on a display is very old and well-known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the system of Cukor et al. to include the display of Figure 1 as part of an output display in order to facilitate understanding the process to all those concerned.

Cukor et al. teaches that the invoicing is performed by the host computer (person who conducts the procedure) and received by the shipper or consignees (person who receives said procedure) (see column 12, lines 16-30).

With respect to claims 3 and 12, Cukor has arrows on Figure 1.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cukor in view of Hanh-Carlson and Kodosky et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Pure PDF.

The combination of Cukor and Hahn-Carlson does not specifically teach predetermined type as PDF. Examiner submits the article "Pure PDF" as evidence that

Art Unit: 3627

at the time of the present invention the PDF document format was old and well known as ideal for cross-platform operations (see lines 9-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to modify the predetermined format of Cukor to include PDF as taught to be old and well known by Pure PDF. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to modify the references in order to produce a system ideal for cross-platform operations.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to all claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. McFadden et al. also shows that generating block diagrams for displays is well-known.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cuff whose telephone number is (571) 272-6778. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Art Unit: 3627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Michael Cuff 2/20/07*

Michael Cuff  
February 20, 2007